

Date: February 9, 2004 Label No. EV 348582555 US

I hereby certify that, on the date indicated above, I deposited this paper with identified attachments and/or fee with the U.S. Postal Service and that it was addressed for delivery to Commissioner for Patents, P. O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450, by "Express Mail Post Office to Addressee" service.

Sandra Stocklinski
Name (Print)

Sandra Stocklinski
Signature

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Application No.	:	09/927,791	Confirmation No.: 7448
Applicant	:	SHARAF et al.	
Filed	:	August 10, 2001	
TC/A.U.	:	1743	
Examiner	:	To Be Assigned	
Docket No.	:	5010-103-01(Formerly 4422I1)	
Customer No.	:	35411	

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

Commissioner for Patents
P. O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

February 9, 2004

Sir:

The attention of the Patent and Trademark Office is hereby directed to the documents listed on the attached Forms PTO/SB/08a (two pages).

The documents listed on the attached Forms PTO/SB/08a were cited in, and include, a European Search Report issued for European Patent Application No. 01125166.7-2204, an application corresponding to the above-captioned application, and are being submitted prior to the three-month anniversary of the date of mailing of the European Search Report.

The above information is presented so that the Patent and Trademark Office can, in the first instance, determine any materiality thereof to the claimed invention. See 37 CFR 1.104(a) and 1.106(b) concerning the PTO duty to consider and use any such information. It is respectfully requested that the information be expressly considered during the prosecution of this application, and that at least the patents and published applications cited in the attached Forms PTO/SB/08a be made of record in the present application and appear on the first page of any patent to issue therefrom.

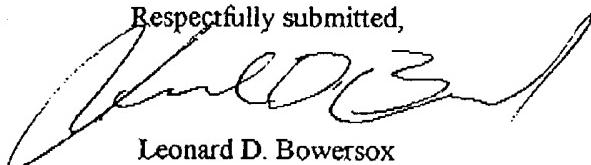
U.S. Patent Application No. 09/927,791
Information Disclosure Statement dated February 9, 2004

This submission does not represent that a search has been made or that no better art exists and does not constitute an admission that the listed documents are material or constitute "prior art." If the Examiner applies any of the cited documents as prior art against any claim in this application and applicant determines that the cited document does not constitute "prior art" under United States law, applicant reserves the right to present to the office the relevant facts and law regarding the appropriate status of such document.

Applicant further reserves the right to take appropriate action to establish the patentability of the disclosed invention over the listed documents, should the documents be applied against the claims of the present application.

It is believed that no fee is required to make this a complete and timely filing. However, if it is determined that a petition or fee is required, the Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any fee associated with this statement to our Deposit Account No. 50-0925, and please consider this a petition.

Respectfully submitted,



Leonard D. Bowersox
Reg. No. 33,226

KILYK & BOWERSOX, P.L.L.C.
3603-E Chain Bridge Road
Fairfax, VA 22030
Tel.: (703) 385-9688
Fac.: (703) 385-9719

Enclosures: Forms PTO/SB/08a (2 pages)
Copies of Four Cited Documents Including
European Search Report

PTO/SB/08a (06-03)

Approved for use through 04/30/2003. OMB 0651-0031

U.S. Patent and Trademark Office; U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
Under the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, no persons are required to respond to a collection of information unless it contains a valid OMB control number.

Substitute for form 1449A/PTO				<i>Complete if Known</i>	
				Application Number	06/027,791
				Filing Date	August 10, 2001
				First Named Inventor	Muhammed A. Sharaf
				Art Unit	1743
				Examiner Name	To Be Assigned
				Attorney Docket Number	5010-103-01
U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS					
Examiner Initials*	Cite No. ¹	Document Number Number & Kind Code ² (if known)	Publication Date MM-DD-YYYY	Name of Patentee or Applicant of Cited Document	Pages, Columns, Lines, Where Relevant Passages or Relevant Figures Appear
		US-5,747,249	05-05-1998	Smith et al.	
		US-5,139,630	08-18-1992	Chem	
		US-			
FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS					
Examiner Initials*	Cite No. ¹	Foreign Patent Document Country Code ³ , Number ⁴ & Kind Code ⁵ (if known)	Publication Date MM-DD-YYYY	Name of Patentee or Applicant of Cited Document	Pages, Columns, Lines, Where Relevant Passages or Relevant Figures Appear
		EP 0 816 837 A1	01-07-1998	Caliper Technologies Corporation	
Examiner Signature					Date Considered

*EXAMINER: Initial if reference considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609. Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant. ¹Applicant's unique citation designation number (optional). ²See Kinds Codes of USPTO Patent Documents at www.uspto.gov or MPEP 901.04. ³Enter Office that issued the document, by the two-letter code (WIPO Standard ST-3). ⁴For Japanese patent documents, the indication of the year of the reign of the Emperor must precede the serial number of the patent document. ⁵Kind of document by the appropriate symbols as indicated on the document under WIPO Standard ST-18 if possible. ⁶Applicant is to place a check mark here if English language Translation is attached. Burden Hour Statement: This form is estimated to take 2.0 hours to complete. Time will vary depending upon the needs of the individual case. Any comments on the amount of time you are required to complete this form should be sent to the Chief Information Officer, U.S. Patent and Trademark Office, Washington, DC 20231. DO NOT SEND FEES OR COMPLETED FORMS TO THIS ADDRESS. SEND TO: Commissioner for Patents, P. O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450.

Date: February 9, 2004 Label No. EV 348582555 US

I hereby certify that, on the date indicated above, I deposited this paper with identified attachments and/or fee with the U.S. Postal Service and that it was addressed for delivery to Commissioner for Patents, P. O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450, by "Express Mail Post Office to Addressee" service.

Name: Sandra Stocklinski Signature: *Sandra Stocklinski*

PTO/SB/08b (05-03)

Approved for use through 10/31/2002. OMB D651-0031
U.S. Patent and Trademark Office; U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
eed to respond to a collection of information unless it contains a valid

Under the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, no persons are required to respond to a collection of information unless it contains a valid OMB control number.

***EXAMINER:** Initial if reference considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609. Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant. "Applicant's unique citation designation number (optional). ²See Kinds Codes of USPTO Patent Documents at www.uspto.gov or MPEP 901.04. "Enter Office that issued the document, by the two-letter code (WIPO Standard ST.3). "For Japanese patent documents, the indication of the year of the reign of the Emperor must precede the serial number of the patent document by the appropriate symbols as indicated on the document under WIPO Standard ST. 16 if possible. ³Applicant is to place a check mark here if English language Translation is attached. **Burden Hour Statement:** This form is estimated to take 2.0 hours to complete. Time will vary depending upon the needs of the individual case. Any comments on the amount of time you are required to complete this form should be sent to the Chief Information Officer, U.S. Patent and Trademark Office, Washington, DC 20231. DO NOT SEND FEES OR COMPLETED FORMS TO THIS ADDRESS. SEND TO: Commissioner for Patents, P. O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450.

Date: February 9, 2004 Label No. EV 348582555 US
I hereby certify that on the date indicated above

I hereby certify that, on the date indicated above, I deposited this paper with identified attachments and/or fee with the U.S. Postal Service and that it was addressed for delivery to Commissioner for Patents, P. O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450, by "Express Mail Post Office to Addressee" service.

Name: Sandra Stocklinski Signature Sandra Stocklinski